



State Senator **NANCY CASSIS** *E-NEWS UPDATE*

Governor Granholm again vetoes Wixom Road reconstruction

I have announced that I will continue to fight for funding of the I-96 and Wixom Road interchange, which is so vital to the health, safety and welfare of the region. The amendment I sponsored in the Senate that secured funding for this project was deemed by Governor Granholm to be “parochial.”

Economic development and new jobs are knocking on the door, but with this veto Governor Granholm has once again demonstrated that she fails to have any understanding of the local and state economic importance of the Wixom Road interchange.

The Wixom Road and Beck Road interchanges were always considered one project with federal highway dollars backing the reconstruction and local and county government investing heavily in preparation and road improvements. Funding has been available for these projects since 1996 with the Beck Road interchange to be completed first and the Wixom Road interchange to immediately follow.

Governor Granholm is making a conscious decision to hold back legitimate economic development that can add jobs and grow our economy at a time when Michigan’s economy is among the worst in the nation. It is long past time for Governor Granholm to stop impeding Michigan’s growth and allow our state to thrive.

Sen. Cassis welcomes Methods Michigan expansion in Wixom

Today I take great pleasure in welcoming the opening of the new Methods Michigan Tech Center in Wixom.

This area’s top-notch workforce and exceptional resources make Wixom the ideal location for Methods Michigan’s expansion. I am pleased to see everyone come together to help make this expansion in Wixom a reality.

Methods Michigan is a machine tool sales and service business specializing in helping machine shops and manufacturing facilities stay ahead of their competition with the latest in metal working technology and equipment. The addition of the Methods Michigan Tech Center in Wixom will result in 28 new jobs for the region.

Job creation is vital to Michigan’s economic recovery. With Michigan’s economy among the worst in the county it is reassuring to see Methods Michigan expanding in southeast Michigan. I welcome them to Wixom.

Cassis’ Amber Alert Abuse Bill Passes out of House Committee

The House Judiciary Committee today unanimously approved legislation I sponsored along with Senator Mike Goschka to penalize people who falsely report an Amber Alert.

The need for the legislation arose from several cases where the Amber Alert system was abused, including a case in Tulsa, Okla., where a woman told police her child had been abducted when her car was stolen from a grocery store parking lot. She later recanted the story, telling police that she wanted a higher priority placed on finding her stolen vehicle. Another case in

Edmond, Okla., involved a girl who was out with her boyfriend and convinced her brother to file a false report so that her parents would not know the truth as to why their daughter was not at home.

A falsely reported Amber Alert ties up law enforcement resources – time, money and investigative efforts that already are stretched thin. It's like yelling 'fire' in a crowded theater when no smoke exists. These vital resources must be available in the event they are needed. People are undermining a system intended to protect children and this legislation will act as a deterrent to those who might abuse it.

The legislation, Senate Bills 74 and 134 make it a felony to falsely report an Amber Alert and establish a penalty of up to four years in prison and fines up to \$2,000.

As the sponsor of Public Act 712 of 2002, which created Amber Alert of Michigan, I firmly believe that we must take a proactive approach to ensure the kinds of abuses that have happened elsewhere do not occur here in Michigan. When we first created Amber Alert, we did not envision that people would come forward and abuse the system. We can take steps to prevent abuse by implementing this legislation.

Contact Information:

The E-News Update by Senator Nancy Cassis is designed to provide residents and organizations with a periodic update of my activity in Lansing. If you have any questions or do not wish to receive this e-mail, please contact my office.

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